

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to the mailing of any Office action and is believed to place the above-referenced case in condition for immediate allowance. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 2, 7 and 21 have been amended. Claims 24 - 48 have been added. Claims 1 - 48 are outstanding in the application.

No new matter has been added to the application. Applicants have amended claims 2, 7 and 21 for better form. Applicants have added new claims to reflect further articulation of patentable subject matter. No narrowing amendment to conform with statute has been made in the application by the amendments to the claims.

It is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone or other conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of the present application, enabling an Examiner's amendment or other meaningful discussion of the case, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

With the above-referenced changes, it is believed that the application is in a condition for allowance; and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the application on to allowance. It is not believed that any additional fees are due; however, in the event any

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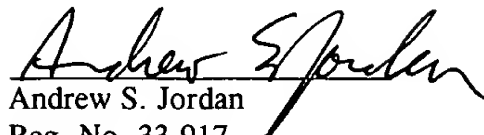
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additional fees are due, the Examiner is authorized to charge Applicant's Attorney's Deposit
Account No. 03-2030.

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP

Date: June 19, 2003


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ASJ/

Enclosure

Acknowledgement Postcard

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